


1:00-CV-1520

FILED
HARRISBURG, PA

SEP 06 2005

MARY E. D'ANDREA, CLERK
Per 
Deputy Clerk

Exh. b, f A

1 Transcripts of Four (4) audiotapes surreptitiously
 2 recorded by members of the Office of Attorney
 3 General, Bureau of Criminal Investigation.
 4 Conversations of Steven L. Romansky and Thomas
 5 E. Smithers. Conducted on December 19, 1985,
 6 January 14, 1986, and January 19, 1986.
 7

8
 9 TAPE NO. 23, SIDE ONE, CASE NO. 21-298.
 10 DATE: DECEMBER 19, 1985.
 11

12
 13 I, William E. O'Connell, Criminal Investigator,
 14 Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal
 15 Investigation, Certification Number 0025, am
 16 placing a body recorder on the person of Thomas
 17 E. Smithers this 19th day of December 1985 at
 18 approximately 1810 hours. Do you, Thomas E.
 19 Smithers, voluntarily consent to the placing of
 20 this device upon your person to be, upon your
 21 person for the purpose of intercepting one Steven
 22 Romansky?
 23

24 TS: I do.
 25

26 Noise: Coat working back and forth across the
 27 body recorder and footsteps of Mr. Smithers
 28 coming into the Romansky residence.
 29

30 TS: What is this your new residence?
 31

32 SR: Yeah.
 33

1 TS: Where did all the deer come from out there?

2

3 SR: Out of the woods.

4

5 TS: Do they get feed good?

6

7 SR: Yeah.

8

9 TS: There must of been 20 of them out there - Whistle

10

11 SR: At least

12

13 TS: What's going on?

14

15 SR: Not much, how about your self? Follow me down

16

stairs. I'm working in the cellar.

17

18 TS: Huh? Footsteps.

19

20 SR: Follow me. Footsteps.

21

22 TS: What are you doing down here? Footsteps.

23

24 SR: Working on the window frames and fixing the place

25

up. So how did the funeral go?

26

27 TS: Oh, we got him in the ground. Buried him last

28

Saturday. Judy's pretty shook up about it,

29

but she'll get over it. So what's up?

30

31 SR: I was wondering why you were avoiding me.

32

33 TS: Why I was avoiding you?

1 SR: Yeah.

2

3 TS: Don't you think that's best?

4

5 SR: I don't think so.

6

7 TS: Why?

8

9 SR: Because you're the only one they been able to pull
10 apart and they've been trying that with everybody.

11

12 TS: What do you mean they pulled me apart?

13

14 SR: Well, you're the only one they've been able to
15 get anything out of so far. And ah, what's his
16 name? Flugel. The one you used for an alibi

17

18 TS: Tony?

19

20 SR: Yeah.

21

22 TS: Yeah.

23

24 SR: They been investigating him and they know he lied
25 for you.

26

27 TS: Yeah.

28

29 SR: They asked me a bunch of questions about Flugel
30 and they said that you'll both be there under
31 subpoena, and that's not good for you. But as
32 far as I can see there's no way for you to get
33 around it. How did you make out the same day

1 we were up there together?

2

3 TS: Where's that? You mean down in Harrisburg.

4

5 SR: Yeah.

6

7 TS: Well that was, well you know that was because
8 Otto, you know.

9

10 SR: What? You know Otto just told the truth of
11 what actually happen.

12

13 TS: Oh yes, well you know it wasn't the truth.

14

15 SR: What?

16

17 TS: Maybe that's the way he read it, but it wasn't
18 the truth. Is that the reason you called me
19 over here?

20

21 SR: The fact that you threaten Otto is only one reason
22 you been threatening him for a long time.

23

24 TS: Yeah.

25

26 SR: There are lots of reasons, you know this thing
27 been going on for a long time.

28

29 TS: Yeah.

30

31 SR: What are you doing to make a living now?

32

33 TS: I went into private investigation.

1 SR: You make any money at it?

2

3 TS: Nope, not that good.

4

5 SR: Yeah, well see it's not just you though with
6 Otto. Otto's doing pretty good, because not
7 only you threatened Otto but so did what's his
8 face. Lynett. That don't look good for
9 Lynett either. I haven't gotten anything
10 about my car yet. But when the time comes
11 I'm in pretty good shape from what we got
12 out of the hearings.

13

14 TS: What car?

15

16 SR: Firebird.

17

18 TS: Firebird.

19

20 SR: That's because.

21

22 TS: You know that's what they're really upset about.

23

24 SR: Well, the three of them lied through their teeth,
25 and we got 'em.

26

27 TS: Uh, huh.

28

29 SR: And when it comes right down to it. The guy
30 that has the VIN plates from my Firebird?

31

32 TS: Uh, huh.

33

1 SR: Big prick, and he don't even know he's got 'em.
2 And I got the guy's name that stole it the
3 dirty bastard. He's got 'em in his house.
4

5 TS: Well what did they do with that car?
6

7 SR: Well it's no longer together. I got, I got another
8 one, another truck, got another Bronco, I
9 recopied everything I had. I don't take no
10 shit from nobody. You know I'm not backing
11 up.
12

13 TS: Yeah.
14

15 SR: I like the part where I say hello to them but
16 they didn't.
17

18 TS: Yeah.
19

20 SR: Seems to be better. But really what they have is
21 absolutely shit. When it comes right down to it.
22 They have absolutely nothing. Did you hear
23 anything about an arraignment date. I guess
24 Al Vicari was supposed to give your lawyer a
25 call.
26

27 TS: I haven't heard a word from anybody.
28

29 SR: Because you know when it comes down to the
30 title on the Bronco, they keep saying that ah, I
31 bought it off Davis and I keep saying no.
32 You know I can't tell them anything about where
33 it come from without involving anybody else.

1 TS: Un huh.

2

3 SR: And that's exactly what I did. You know, sooner
4 or later they're going to have to come up with
5 something where it came from.
6

7 TS: What's the, what's the story on the fires or
8 whatever the hell happened up there. They got
9 nothing on you there?
10

11 SR: Their, their pissing in the wind, and they, they tell me
12 that maybe one day they'll get lucky and I'll come
13 up and confess and all this shit. They have
14 nothing. Absolutely fucking nothing. The only thing
15 they have about my truck was they tell me what
16 you tell them.
17

18 TS: Which truck?

19

20 SR: Brown one.

21

22 TS: Who said that I said, said it was stolen?

23

24 SR: Horek and Novatnak. When they asked me why
25 it come up a couple different years for inspection
26

27 TS: Yeah. I haven't talked to those guys at all.

28

29 SR: Yeah. Well they were the, your place, you had to
30 talk to them once.
31

32 TS: Oh yeah. When they come they had taken the
33 inspection stickers and they ah.

1 SR: I know they were in there and not long after they
2 talked to Debbie. And she had ah, a girl.
3

4 TS: Yeah, Judy said that it was in the paper. Yeah.
5 But, I think their biggest problem then, would
6 be with the, with the arson and the ah, the
7 stealing of that car up there at Mt. Pocono is the
8 only ones I can think of.
9

10 SR: When you ain't got nothing, and they can't get nothing
11 and they can't create nothing. I know where I
12 was. I have everybody to say I was there. I
13 mean there's a place of business.
14

15 TS: Yeah.

16
17 SR: And they'll testify and say I was there. Simple
18 as that. You can't be in two places at the same
19 time. They don't have shit on my brother either.
20 What do you think the other problem is?
21

22 TS: Huh?

23
24 SR: What do you think the other problem is?
25

26 TS: Well that car in Mt. Pocono.

27
28 SR: Dave Swiderski had a guy take that.
29

30 TS: Dave did?

31
32 SR: Yeah. Him and another guy. And that's just the
33 way it comes out, and that's why there going to

1 have to give Flugel another call because him
2 and Squiddley lied about and that was done at
3 the hearing where Squiddley showed up.
4

5 TS: Yeah.

6

7 SR: And ah, he definitely can't change that story. So
8 that's down in black and white.

9

10 TS: Is this all your stuff?

11

12 SR: Most of it.

13

14 TS: Well.

15

16 SR: \$80,000 in this house.

17

18 TS: Is that what you earned out of here?

19

20 SR: That's what I put in the bank.

21

22 TS: Oh.

23

24 SR: That's what it comes out to. But um.

25

26 TS: I can't stay very long. Got to get back home.

27

28 SR: Well how comes, in the beginning, when all this shit
29 happened, we didn't sit down and talk?

30

31 TS: Well Steve you know I was a police officer. That
32 put a, put a bad spot on there you know.

33

1 SR: Yeah, that would do it.

2

3 TS: Yeah.

4

5 SR: And you know what? When we was running around
6 together, the only thing you ever said is if I
7 go to jail you go with me. That you'd have to
8 you know that was bull shit. You said it and you
9 know you said it, and you know it was bull shit at
10 the time. And ah.

11

12 TS: Well.

13

14 SR: That's where the trouble started. The trouble didn't
15 start with me, it started with you. I know it did
16 Tom. I traced it right back to you.

17

18 TS: Yeah.

19

20 SR: I'd like you better if you didn't lie.

21

22 TS: Well I'm not lying.

23

24 SR: Listen, as far as it comes to blouses over at Joe's
25 mill where you think everything started.

26

27 TS: Huh.

28

29 SR: I know how Joe found out cause you told him.
30 You told um, Flo. Flo's son told Flo and Flo
31 told Joe. We set everything up at the mill to get
32 out from under what we was involved in. It
33 wasn't you know, it isn't something you can

1 TS: You mean the night that Dave Swiderski stopped
2 you?

3

4 SR: It wasn't Swiderski. You know what, what went
5 down as well as anybody else. It was Lynett
6 and Swiderski when I stopped at the stop sign
7 at the print shop.

8

9 TS: I didn't hear about that until the next day.

10

11 SR: There was no arrest or anything.

12

13 TS: Yeah.

14

15 SR: We counted on one thing them having a big mouth
16 and they did. Worked fine. It got me out from
17 under and caught the girl that was in there telling
18 them what's being made and where it was going.

19

20 TS: Yeah.

21

22 SR: Tom I know for a fact.

23

24 TS: Yeah.

25

26 SR: You know I was working so hard to find ah,
27 find ah.

28

29 TS: Doug.

30

31 SR: You were supposed to get him on the phone and tell
32 him to call me right.

33

1 TS: Um huh.

2

3 SR: What happened there?

4

5 TS: I haven't talked to Doug for months either.

6

7 SR: I'm talking about when, when we were involved
8 in. When I was coming over to you looking for
9 a reason for things. I wanted him to call
10 that day. You called and talked to Doug and
11 told me you never got in touch with him. You
12 talked to him that day.

13

14 TS: Steve you got yourself in a bind and that's all
15 there is to it.

16

17 SR: I'm in no bind Tom.

18

19 TS: Yeah well.

20

21 SR: I just want to know why you were running around
22 stabbing me in the back like that.

23

24 TS: I wasn't running around stabbing you in the back.

25

26 SR: I don't do that to anybody.

27

28 TS: You never did I know.

29

30 SR: Why would you do that to me?

31

32 TS: I didn't.

33

1 SR: Tom you know if you didn't that makes everybody
2 I talked to and me a liar and you're the only one
3 telling the truth. Now let's face it. When it
4 comes to telling the truth record I have a longer
5 straight line than you do.
6

7 TS: Yeah.

8
9 SR: It's not going to work unless we keep working
10 together.
11

12 TS: Huh.

13
14 SR: You know their trying to separate people and
15 get them mad at each other its gonna work in
16 their favor.
17

18 TS: Well I'll think about it. I got to get going.

19
20 SR: Listen, it isn't, it isn't just about Doug. That's
21 one thing. It's about a lot of things. Because
22 when you called Doug and talked to him you told
23 him to stay away from me. I was going to jail
24 for a long time. But why did you do that? You
25 knew I needed help at that time. And I helped
26 myself when I found out you were doing that. You
27 know that's all I'm asking you right now is to tell
28 me why.
29

30 TS: Steve I was a police officer.

31
32 SR: So you were a police officer. Your going to tell
33 me you didn't do anything illegal as a police officer

1 TS: Nope. Well wish you luck.

2

3 SR: This isn't how I want to leave it. It's no way
4 for you to leave.

5

6 TS: Call me again.

7

8 SR: I did that's why I want to get something
9 straightened out now. This is not something
10 that's going to go away. The time is gonna
11 come when we'll have to sit down together and
12 ah, the smartest thing I thought to do was to
13 have a talk.

14

15 TS: Yeah I know that but I can't.

16

17 SR: He said if as soon as the paperwork comes out
18 that Vicar gets you first. You know what I mean.

19

20 TS: Tell him to give me a call.

21

22 SR: Tom.

23

24 TS: No. I got to get back home.

25

26 SR: What's your hurry to go home.

27

28 TS: I got a hot one lined up.

29

30 SR: There's got to be a reason your so God dam nervous
31 all of a sudden. We used to spend hours
32 together.

33

1 TS: Uh, huh.

2

3 SR: Why now can't you just come out and tell me you
4 talked. Did you think I was going to drag
5 you to jail with me? Did you feel you was on
6 a losing ship?
7

8 TS: No Steve.

9

10 SR: You trying to get off? There had to be a fucking
11 problem why you go ahead and do things like
12 that. I never did anything like that to you.
13 Just the one incident alone with Doug.
14

15 TS: Yup.

16

17 SR: Telling me you couldn't get in touch with him when
18 you talked to him. Now there has to be a
19 reason you do stuff like that. All I'm looking for
20 is the reason. I didn't do it to you.
21

22 TS: I know.

23

24 SR: Then why can't you tell me the reason why you
25 did it to me. I mean before you were always
26 told me the reason.
27

28 TS: Yup.

29

30 SR: Tom I only want to fucking know.

31

32 TS: Yeah.

33

1 SR: It's never gonna work like this

2

3 TS: I'll talk to Al. See you later.

4

5 SR: Listen Tom that's not what I want. I want us
6 to talk first. I can handle Al.

7

8 TS: Well as long as you can handle it yourself there
9 at the trial you'll have no problem really.

10

11 SR: I'm not worried about any problem with any of
12 the vehicles, or any cops right now. I'm worried
13 about the problems between us. I want to know
14 why. That's the only thing I was to know is why
15 you did it. You, you send me around looking for
16 rats in the wood pile like Sonny Kiper and stuff
17 that you have all your problems with and when you
18 needed me in court I was there for you. Telling
19 me there's a rat in the wood pile and the rat
20 in the wood pile was you for a long time.

21

22 TS: Um huh.

23

24 SR: Well at least deny it, or something or tell me why.
25 Tell me I'm wrong. I know I'm right. I
26 checked all my questions and answers. But I
27 talked to these people. Doug had no reason
28 to lie to me.

29

30 TS: Right.

31

32 SR: I talked to him the same day you said that you
33 could not get in touch with him. Exact same day.

1 TS: I don't, I don't talk to anybody Steve.

2

3 SR: Now, No I'm talking about then.

4

5 TS: Yup.

6

7 SR: Neither have I. I talk to the people that they
8 don't care about. They think I murdered
9 somebody and they don't want to ah believe
10 that these people are just friends of mine.
11 They have nothing to say because they don't know
12 nothing.

13

14 TS: Why who did you murder now?

15

16 SR: Nobody, they think I have. The thing that burns
17 me up is that they had to arrest Fran too.

18

19 TS: Yeah why?

20

21 SR: Why because her name was on her Firebird. Why
22 is because it'll piss me off. Why is because
23 they want me to go over there and kill you. That's
24 what they want me to do. I'll do it when I
25 want to.

26

27 TS: Um huh.

28

29 SR: I take care of people when I want. Not
30 because they're pushing. They're telling me
31 how you're stabbing me in the back. And I
32 have no reason not to believe them. And you're
33 not giving me any reason to believe you. They're

1 telling me that you are turning me in left and
2 right. Squiddley tells me when all this comes
3 down that ah, you're going to come out all
4 right and I'm the only one that's going to get
5 the shit.

6
7 TS: Who said that?

8
9 SR: Dave Swiderski the big new Police Chief. These
10 people are telling me one thing and you're not
11 telling me anything. You know what they have
12 is down in black and white and that's your
13 written testament.

14
15 TS: Mine?

16
17 SR: They got everything that you told them. Has been
18 taken in writing. Everytime they talk to you.
19 Everytime they went to the garage and talked
20 to you. And you weren't the one that said a
21 single thing. You didn't even tell me you even
22 talked to them. The minute Flugel's name
23 came in they asked me what kind of guy Flugel
24 was. Would Flugel lie for you. And the only thing
25 I told them as far as I know I've never met
26 a cop that doesn't lie. I said that I don't know
27 Flugel that well. And that's the truth I don't
28 know him that well.

29
30 TS: Um huh.

31
32 SR: That's the only reason I could give.

33

1 TS: I'll talk to you tomorrow.

2

3 SR: I'd rather you did it now Tom. There's got to
4 be a reason. I don't give a shit what it is.
5 If you hated me, you dislike me, or what. I
6 don't care what the reason is. I just want a
7 reason. You just can't walk around and say
8 there was no reason. Were you afraid of going
9 to jail or what? Everybody has his fears,
10 mine just don't happened to be one of them
11 about going to jail there's no way. I can handle
12 all the problems I got except one. The
13 problem between you and me because I don't
14 know what it is. It's hard to bring trust back
15 into a relationship once it's been lost.

16

17 TS: Yeah I know.

18

19 SR: And I never, never, gave you a reason for this.
20 They did. My name and your name didn't come
21 together at all in any of my conversations.
22 I didn't tell them where I got anything. The
23 only thing that came through you is the receipt
24 I have for the Bronco. And you didn't know
25 nothing about it because you weren't there you
26 were at school at the time I ran the garage at
27 that time and it was in the back of the garage
28 at that time and that's exactly what I told them.

29

30 TS: Well that's fact man.

31

32 SR: That's right. And all I told them was fact. And
33 the facts are that I have witnesses as to

1 where I picked it up. And I have everything
2 I need. They don't know about any evidence
3 I got. Because I didn't have to say nothing
4 at the one hearing. I was the only one out of
5 all their people to have a hearing. All the rest
6 of them copped a plea.

7
8 TS: Yeah.

9
10 SR: I ain't copping to nothing, simple as that. It's
11 important.

12
13 TS: I don't know. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

14
15 SR: Chances are you won't because you ain't nearly
16 ready to come back.

17
18 TS: Shame on you.

19
20 SR: Tom what the hell is your problem?

21
22 TS: Yeah, yeah.

23
24 SR: So you screwed Doug, you told the cops, you made
25 Doug very unhappy. So is, ah, Otto doesn't matter
26 how good friends we were.

27
28 TS: Man I don't understand Otto.

29
30 SR: He's afraid to talk to you.

31
32 TS: Huh?

33

1 SR: He's afraid to talk to you.

2

3 TS: I know I'll talk to you.

4

5 SR: So why are you running out?

6

7 TS: I ain't

8

9 SR: I think it's important that we stay together. I'll
10 tell you right now this is more important than
11 anything else that can happen.

12

13 TS: I know.

14

15 SR: Then why the fuck are you running out. I haven't,
16 I haven't done a thing to you. I could have
17 told them everything. I have no reason not to.

18

19 TS: Yeah oh, you went over to my house?

20

21 SR: Yeah I can do anything I want to do.

22

23 TS: You're not the one that poisoned my dog are you?

24

25 SR: You know God dam well I'm not. Cause I got
26 one thing that I want to do to you. You know
27 I don't want to kill you. I don't want to do
28 any of that kind of shit. I don't want to
29 destroy any of your property. When this is all
30 over, I want you to be man enough to come
31 to me and tell me is all. All I want to do is
32 break you face a little bit and that's fact. That's
33 all I want to do. Man to man any way you want

1 to do it. But I'm not going to come over there
 2 and destroy anything you got, because I don't
 3 figure your that important. I really don't. And
 4 if you got people bothering you over there it's
 5 probably someone I know. But I won't know
 6 who it is until you tell me what the fuck's going
 7 on. I don't know. There's a lot of people don't
 8 want to tell the truth. Doug wants to help me kill
 9 you. Just for what you did to him. I told Doug
 10 not to worry about it. I'll take care of it. I said
 11 stay away from him. That's what I told him. And
 12 Doug's got some pretty nasty friends. Maybe they
 13 went. I got blamed for a lot of things I
 14 didn't do. Even in my neighborhood when Brian
 15 did things

16
 17 TS: Um huh.

18
 19 SR: Because people bad moth me. But you don't have
 20 nothing to fear from me because when I have
 21 something to say I'll call you and I will say it.
 22 I'll call you at the house. And that's the only
 23 thing I want to know is why the hell do you want
 24 to stab me in the back for. And when the hell are
 25 you going to come back on this side and get off
 26 the other side. You're no longer a cop. There are
 27 no sides. Them people are no fucking better than
 28 us. They only evidence they got, they made up they
 29 lied. They have no real fucking proof. We've got
 30 proof that they lied. Even their official inspector
 31 that said they found special numbers and shit. Bull
 32 shit. They can't come up with where they found
 33 them. And there will be no trial until they do.

1 Vican has to know where those numbers are and
2 there are none. I pulled my vehicles apart, no
3 numbers. What do you know about um, that guy
4 from Stricklands the one that use to drive the
5 blue truck?

6

7 TS: Don Williams?

8

9 SR: Yeah.

10

11 TS: Nothing why?

12

13 SR: He hasn't talked to you since any of this has
14 started?

15

16 TS: Well I see him on the road. Why what does he know?

17

18 SR: He was up there.

19

20 TS: He was up there too?

21

22 SR: Him and what's his face.

23

24 TS: Who's what's his face?

25

26 SR: Whoever used to ride in the blue truck with him.

27

28 TS: Oh, I don't know who he was.

29

30 SR: Yeah you do.

31

32 TS: That old Pella?

33

1 SR: Yeah they were up there and they didn't come
2 talk to you. I thought you guys were pretty
3 close friends.

4

5 TS: Oh, they stop in and told me they looked at
6 something, and didn't tell them who it came from
7 or anything.

8

9 SR: I'd really like to know why. You got to have a
10 reason in your head. You know all you have to do
11 is think back. Tom get off it. You know before
12 I asked you any of these questions I already
13 knew the answers. That's why I asked you. I
14 was hoping at least you'd have nerve enough to
15 tell me the truth. All the while that I worked
16 for you I didn't, I never took one fucking thing
17 without telling you. They're trying to tear us
18 apart and come between us. They want me to
19 go over there and take care of you so they don't
20 have to. They tell me your not my friend. And they
21 can't nail me because nobody else knows anything
22 I did but me. And they know it for a fact. So
23 all they can do is keep playing this game hoping
24 somebody will get scared and every fucking thing
25 they got I got back I replaced it.

26

27 TS: Talk to you later.

28

29 SR: Tom.

30

31 TS: I'll come back we'll get together.

32

33 SR: I don't have a schedule that I have to keep and

1 do you. You don't work a steady job.

2

3 TS: No, nope.

4

5 SR: Why would you know there has to be, why would
6 you do something like tell Doug to stay away from
7 me? Could you answer that one small question.

8

9 TS: I don't remember telling Doug that. I'll ask
10 Doug about it.

11

12 SR: Ask what?

13

14 TS: I'll ask Doug about it.

15

16 SR: Tom the same day that you called, I was here.
17 I called you up. I told Doug to call.

18

19 TS: Um huh.

20

21 SR: I told you to get a hold of Doug. Have him call
22 here it was vitally important. I wanted to get in
23 touch with him about the Bronco.

24

25 TS: Yeah.

26

27 SR: About ah, Hawk. What he looked like, his hand-
28 writing and all that stuff. And then you called
29 him and told him to stay away from me because
30 I was going to jail. Were you so sure that I was
31 going and you weren't going to have any problems
32 or what. There's got to be a reason.

33

1 TS: Well Steve look I don't want to have any
2 problems with anybody. All I want to do is get
3 out of this thing.
4

5 SR: Tom I don't want you to have any.
6

7 TS: Yeah.
8

9 SR: I just told you exactly what I wanted to do. That's
10 all I want to do to you. It would be just as
11 easy to put a bullet in your head any night.
12

13 TS: Yeah.
14

15 SR: If you don't believe that I can show you all the
16 pictures that I've shot of you.
17

18 TS: Well that's up to you. If you're going to shoot
19 me or do whatever you want go right ahead and
20 do it.
21

22 SR: Tom you know damn well all I want is the truth.
23 So far what you've tried to do as far as I can
24 see is have me put away and it hasn't worked.
25 Maybe you thought if I was put away you'd feel
26 safe walking around. Having somebody like me
27 angry at you is not a good idea. It's just not.
28 And I don't want to do anything.
29

30 TS: Well I came here, I came here to talk to you
31 as a friend. Now if you're going to stand there
32 and threaten me I don't want to stick around.
33

1 SR: You haven't heard me threaten you.

2

3 TS: Yeah.

4

5 SR: Because I'm not threatening you. I told you
6 what I wanted to do. That's the end of it.

7

8 TS: Yeah.

9

10 SR: Now all I want to get down to is fist to cuffs
11 some day. I don't care if it's next year or
12 two years from now. But we cannot pull
13 apart with this problem. We have to work
14 together. There's a lot you can do to help me.
15 And there's a lot I can do to help you. But
16 I don't want any help from you. And I don't
17 want to give you any help from me until I know
18 why you did what you did. There's certain things
19 that happened that, you know, when you lie it's
20 fine. Everybody does it. But to stand here and
21 lie to me the guy that's done everything and knows
22 how many lies you told before the things that you've
23 done wrong the things that I've done wrong and
24 the things we did together that's entirely different.
25 You know Otto said that you threatened to kill
26 him. You know I can believe that because that's
27 you, but when they asked me why you did that
28 I said, "Smithers was probably joking. Tommy
29 always says that because of Otto." And you know
30 what? I had everybody else say that. Now
31 when they asked you that question what kind of
32 answer did you give them?

33

1 TS: The same answer.

2

3 SR: You said that you could never do it because you
4 didn't trust Otto that's what you said.

5

6 TS: I said, I said it in jest. That's exactly the
7 same way that I said it.

8

9 SR: I sat there at that hearing in Harrisburg and I
10 had everybody else go in before me I knew all
11 the questions before I got there I knew what
12 all everybody else's answers were before. I laid a
13 pretty good pattern for you to pick up on. Hope-
14 fully you picked up on it, but Lynett didn't even
15 go down. And the other problem was when you
16 told Otto to get my car out of there because it
17 was stolen. That bothered them. Why would
18 you say that?

19

20 TS: Steve they had already pegged that car as being
21 stolen. And when Otto brought it to my garage
22 I told him to get that out of there. What would
23 have happen if they'd have driven in there and
24 saw that car sitting there? Am I right?

25

26 SR: What would happened? That's what I'm
27 asking.

28

29 TS: Yup, well I didn't want to take any chances.

30

31 SR: You didn't want to take a chance of getting
32 involved.

33

1 TS: Nope. That's right.

2

3 SR: So I can understand that. Then why didn't you
4 just say that? Steve I think you're over
5 your head, you're going to go down. And I
6 don't want to go with you. Why didn't you
7 just say that? I could believe that a lot
8 more than you making believe you're helping
9 me when you're lying.

10

11 TS: Um huh.

12

13 SR: That's all I wanted to hear. Steve I can't help
14 any more you went too far Steve you didn't know
15 when to stop. That's all you had to do.

16

17 TS: Yup.

18

19 SR: And I could not understand why you didn't.

20

21 TS: I'll talk to you later. I'll talk to you later.

22

23 SR: I'd like to iron more of this out. I'll make
24 me feel a whole lot better. And it's got to
25 make you feel a whole lot better whether you
26 want to admit it or not.

27

28 TS: Yeah.

29

30 SR: We used to have a lot of fun together.

31

32 TS: Yup.

33

1 SR: And because you were a cop and I was a
2 criminal and you didn't think we could hang
3 out together is that it? But I wasn't
4 hanging out with you when you lost your job
5 as a cop. I didn't have anything to do with
6 it now did I?

7
8 TS: No, not that I know of.

9
10 SR: I didn't help it did I.

11
12 TS: Huh? I know you didn't help it much. No.

13
14 SR: Yeah, but I didn't drag you into it.

15
16 TS: Yeah.

17
18 SR: If, if you think I'm the reason you lost your
19 job you should say so. Now's not the time to
20 beat around the bush. I'm being as honest
21 with you as I can. I don't know what's safe
22 to tell you and what isn't. And there was a time
23 I could tell you anything. But I found out
24 different. Why you letting me do all the talking?
25 Use to be you did all the talking.

26
27 TS: Yeah.

28
29 SR: Got to be a problem. Got to be. How am I going
30 to give testimony without getting you involved.
31 You know how, you know how I came by every-
32 thing. You're the only one on the face of the
33 earth that does know. When those people came

1 to me asking questions I didn't tell them any-
2 thing. You know sooner or later I'm going to
3 have to tell them something.
4

5 TS: Um huh.

6
7 SR: You know all they want me to do is give you up, that's
8 all they want me to say. You know where the Firebird
9 came from why don't you tell me. Why you got a
10 good memory. You remember which one it was, it
11 was the black one. And you remember why because
12 you had trouble with the forklift. All of a sudden it's
13 different now when I'm falling everything's legal now.
14 Well everybody still got a hot vehicles with hot parts.
15

16 TS: Well that's your bag Steve. I had nothing to do with
17 that.

18
19 SR: And you're telling me that you washed your hands of
20 it and your totally legitimate now.
21

22 TS: Yup.

23
24 SR: And that's where you're going to stay at.

25
26 TS: Um huh.

27
28 SR: You're not going to get involved in anything illegal you
29 been scared straight.
30

31 TS: Yeah I guess.

32
33 SR: Listen the only thing I'm worried about is them

1 calling you to court. I mean there's no way that
2 nobody knows how it's going to come down. Let's
3 face it. You don't know any more about it than
4 I do. But if we pull apart chances are I'll be
5 okay and feel a whole lot better. If I say I got
6 this part from a certain vender it does necessarily
7 mean that it came through your garage. How about
8 the green truck that I got from...

9
10 TS: Yeah from the bank. Yeah.

11
12 SR: I can't get in touch with anybody that ever owned it.

13
14 TS: Just call Bob Wilson. That's where that truck came
15 from. The green one that Stanley drives?

16
17 SR: No. I'm talking about the other one.

18
19 TS: Oh that's, that's First, First Eastern Bank. Yeah
20 First yeah. First Eastern Bank.

21
22 SR: But I can't get a hold of nobody by the name of House
23 Doctor. I can't get the signed over and I can't
24 get it transferred.

25
26 TS: Well all you got to do is go down to the Courthouse
27 and look it up. It's a corporation. Well I'll see
28 you later. I got a date.

29
30 SR: So that green truck I got I can make it legal
31 for the road? There's no problem with that.

32
33 TS: Call Bob Wilson. He can sign those papers. He

1 can sign those papers. That's who you got the
2 truck from.

3

4 SR: Yeah that's the one I got out otherwise it's in the
5 back.

6

7 TS: That's the same outfit.

8

9 SR: It was from the House Doctor.

10

11 TS: Yup, keep in touch. See you later, come on up,
12 hah, hah. I got to go. See you later Steve.

13

14 SR: What's your hurry. When are you suppose to have
15 more time?

16

17 TS: Give me a call.

18

19 SR: I'm not going to be doing that all the time because
20 I feel that I'm forcing you to come here.

21

22 TS: I wouldn't come here unless I wanted to talk to
23 you.

24

25 SR: Well you haven't done much talking. I've done all
26 the talking. There's got to be a reason why.

27

28 TS: I'll see you later.

29

30 SR: I really want to know what it is.

31

32 TS: I'll talk to you.

33

1 SR: It hurts me. It really does. It's not bull shit.
2 We had a good thing going everything was going
3 great.

4
5 TS: Yeah.

6
7 SR: I tried talking to you. Tried to talk to you. You
8 didn't want nothing to do with me for some reason.

9
10 TS: I was a cop. I'm sorry.

11
12 SR: There wasn't three better friends.

13
14 TS: Yup.

15
16 SR: Than you, me and Otto.

17
18 TS: I know there wasn't any better friends than you,
19 me and Otto. But there's different parts of life
20 too Steve.

21
22 SR: Then sit down and talk to me about it.

23
24 TS: I will.

25
26 SR: Don't tell me where the problem is. I know the
27 problem between us. And you're the only one
28 that can put it back together.

29

30

31 END OF CONVERSATION IN THE ROMANSKY HOME

32

33

1 TS: Come on you fucken car. Good. How you doing?
2 I got a quarter. Son of a bitching phone. Yeah
3 why don't you come up to the diner and meet. I
4 was thinking about what you were talking about.
5 I just don't like. I don't like that house. Yeah.
6 Huh? Yeah meet me out in the parking lot out
7 here. That way we can talk and then I know
8 nobody's around. Yeah all right. Bye. He'll
9 be here in two minutes.
10

11 Russell W. Thomas, Special Agent

12
13 Okay don't be so dam cautious and get out front
14 with him. Tell him this, tell him this, the reason,
15 the reason I told them cops what I told them is
16 because I'm fucking saving my own fucking ass
17 that's why God dam it. Now you tell me what's
18 your fucking story, how can I help you out. Give
19 me your fucking alibi. What did you do with that
20 fucking tag... I know I can get in trouble over
21 it.
22

23 TS: You want me to pull that shit?

24

25 Russell W. Thomas:

26

27 Yeah.

28

29 TS: Okay.

30

31 Russell W. Thomas:

32

33 Pull right over on the side here.

1 TS: Okay. Turn your parking lights on if there's too
2 much noise in this car. If I take this coat off
3 I don't think it'll be obvious.

4
5

6 END OF TAPE NO. 23, SIDE ONE, CASE NO. 21-298.
7 DATE: DECEMBER 19, 1985.

8
9

10 TAPE NO. 23, SIDE TWO, CASE NO. 21-298.
11 DATE: DECEMBER 19, 1985. CONVERSATION IN
12 THE CAR AT THE MOUNTAIN HOME DINER IN
13 PENNSYLVANIA. DOUBLE TAPING BEGINS.

14

15 TS: I just don't fucking trust you yet.

16

17 SR: Listen all right it's only because I don't trust you.
18 I don't run around with tape recorders.

19

20 TS: Yeah.

21

22 SR: In my pocket to talk to people.

23

24 TS: Yeah.

25

26 SR: And I don't ever, ever fuck a friend. And I
27 don't use people. That's the difference...

28

29 TS: Yeah.

30

31 SR: ... between you and I.

32

33

1 TS: Now what's, what's the fuck actually went on up
2 there. With that fire. That arson?

3
4 SR: Smithers.

5
6 TS: I mean you sure as hell didn't do it your self.
7 Now I have to know the answers to these kind
8 of things if I'm going to help you.

9
10 SR: Listen, I didn't come to you looking for help. I
11 can handle it pretty much myself okay. And
12 there's nothing went on with that fucking fire.
13 They ain't got nothing. They've got absolutely
14 fucking nothing. They come to my house and
15 they confiscated the fucking, what's that you mix
16 fiberglass with.

17
18 TS: Did anybody help you do it?
19

20 SR: Fuck Smithers I worked alone all my life. You're
21 the only one that. You know what? You want to
22 see something? You sit in this car and I'll flip the
23 fucker over with you in it.

24
25 TS: Well I don't want you to do that. I just wanted to
26 make sure that.

27
28 SR: I work alone my entire life. There's no one that
29 knows anything about me other than, the only thing
30 that people help me with are taking pictures and
31 following people because I can't be everywhere.

32
33 TS: What are these pictures that you're taking of me.

1 SR: No.

2

3 TS: With that God dam long lens thing?

4

5 SR: Just pictures of you. Just ah, that was at the
6 time that you was dating that girl in Scranton.

7

8 TS: Oh.

9

10 SR: The nurse and that's about the same time everything
11 started to fucking happen. Tom I didn't come
12 to you for help. I really don't think I need it.

13

14 TS: Well if you, if you want me to help you I at least
15 have to know the God dam stories.

16

17 SR: There are no stories. The thing, all they're fucking
18 trying to do is get me angry enough to kill you.

19

20 TS: To kill me yeah.

21

22 SR: Well boil the bull shit out of it and that's what it
23 comes down to. They didn't arrest Fran just
24 because they think she's guilty. They arrested
25 Fran to piss me off. That picture they printed in
26 the news paper that wasn't no accident that my
27 truck was right up fucking front. It was no fucking
28 accident. They waited for. I'm the only one that
29 had a fucking hearing out of everybody. Only one.
30 And the only time your name came up is when
31 they said they would subpoena you to testify to
32 re-restate the fact...

33

1 TS: Well I probably won't...

2

3 SR: that my truck was stolen.

4

5 TS: Yeah I probably won't even be around if they do
6 subpoena me. What the hell are they going to do?
7 Come and get me wherever I'm at?

8

9 SR: You'll be there.

10

11 TS: Yeah.

12

13 SR: It isn't something you can escape. It isn't
14 something you can sweep under the fucking rug.
15 You'll have to be subpoenaed.

16

17 TS: The only thing that I should never...

18

19 SR: The only thing that I told the...

20

21 TS: Huh?

22

23 SR: The only thing that I told the lawyers to get to-
24 gether is that when it does come down. I
25 would rather have Vicin subpoena for you as a
26 witness on our side so they can't get you first.

27

28 TS: I really don't think that should make a God dam
29 bit of difference who gets subpoenaed or what
30 the hell. They put you on the stand and that's it.

31

32 SR: You won't be able to squawk, give testimony for
33 two different sides at two different trials at the

1 same time.

2

3 TS: You sure your girlfriend isn't telling them things?

4

5 SR: She don't know nothing. You know no matter what
6 you fucking people think she don't know nothing.
7 Smithers I walk from here to my house. I
8 walk it takes ten hours to walk from here to
9 my fucking house. I do that alone. They
10 followed me. They had three different fucking
11 people following me. They wanted to know what
12 the fuck I was doing walking. One guy tried
13 to pick me up three fucking times. I told
14 them all the way from Mountain Home that I
15 didn't need a ride. The last place I talked
16 to them is all the way over in Newfoundland when
17 he says, "I thought you didn't need a ride." I
18 said, "I didn't need a fucking ride. I needed
19 the fucking exercise." If I want to do something
20 I'll walk from here the fuck to Hamlin. That's
21 the kind of guy I am. There is nothing on the face
22 of the earth to stop me when I want to do it.
23 Nothing. And that's all there is to it.

24

25 TS: Well you don't need to threaten anybody.

26

27 SR: I'm not.

28

29 TS: Like shooting me and stuff like that. That's crazy.

30

31 SR: I just told you I'm not going to kill you. If I
32 wanted to do it I'd do it long ago. The only
33 thing I'm pissed off about and want to break

1 your face about is because that you were doing
2 that behind my back.

3
4 TS: No I was a cop.

5
6 SR: It doesn't matter.

7
8 TS: Once they ask me a question and I'm going to
9 give them answers Steve. That's all there is
10 to it.

11
12 SR: Probably stolen. That's a good answer? Why
13 didn't you use the same fucking answer that
14 I did when they asked you about my brown truck.
15 I said my registration doesn't have a date in it
16 how would any of them guys that inspected it
17 know what the fuck year it was? That's what I
18 told them. And my registration don't have a year
19 in it.

20
21 TS: I don't think they're worried about the cars. I
22 don't think they're worried about the cars at all.
23 I think they're really pissed off about the fucking
24 fire up there. I don't know whether you did it or
25 not, but that's their gesture.

26
27 SR: They're pissed off about the Firebird disappearing.
28 There ain't a fucking thing they can do about it.
29 Because Squiddley going to go to fucking jail for
30 that. There ain't a fucking thing...

31
32 TS: What did you say Squiddley stole that car?

33

1 SR: Fucking a roadie and I got a witness to say that
2 he gave him money and the money in his fucking
3 hand that Squiddley gave him and Squiddley got
4 the fucking plates.
5

6 TS: Dave Swiderski...

7
8 SR: Yeah. Squiddley's got the fucking plates in his
9 house from my Firebird. Now how is he going
10 to lie his way out of that.
11

12 TS: Well what about the Pire. I think that's another
13 thing they're pissed off about.
14

15 SR: Well too bad. I ain't even fucking started to
16 slap them in their faces. When I'm done fucking
17 slapping them they won't have nothing to drive
18 I know where every one of them mother fuckers
19 live. I know every one of their kids. Where
20 the fuck they go to school. What time they get
21 up in the morning. If you wanted to learn
22 how to do private investigatin work I can teach
23 you a lot about it. I know where they're all
24 the fuck at. You should see Horek when I walk
25 in the mall right behind him and say hello. He
26 walks right out and runs to his fucking car cause
27 he ain't got no buddies with him. They don't come
28 to my house without six fucking cops for Christ
29 sake. They're scared to death for some reason.
30 And that's a bull shit story somebody else fed them.
31 It isn't a fucking can of worms that I opened.
32 I'm not the one that told Paul I'm stealing
33 blouses out of the mall. You're the one that

1 told Paul and Paul told his mom, his mom told
2 Joe and Joe told me. That's the way it goes.
3 Blood is actually thicker than water. All the
4 time Joe sat there, over there, thinking that
5 he's telling you that he hated my guts. We
6 knew what was going on. I never knew from
7 the beginning whether I could trust you or not
8 because you were a cop.

9
10 TS: I am. I was.

11
12 SR: How could you trust a fucking cop? Let's face it.

13
14 TS: Yeah.

15
16 SR: There's no difference between crooks and cops
17 except the cops are crooked. And they try
18 to do it legally. That's it. That's the only fucking
19 difference there is. There's a big difference
20 between me and your common crook. Your
21 common fucking crook goes out and steals
22 because he has to, he wants to survive. I'm
23 out there because I'm going to get even. I'm
24 pissed. They don't use fucking Fran like that
25 and get away with it.

26
27 TS: Oh you're the one that got Fran into it.

28
29 SR: I didn't.

30
31 TS: You should of told them right away at the
32 hearing or whatever that she had never any know-
33 ledge or whatever.

1 SR: I told them all that shit. Did everything I
2 could. The only thing they would do to keep
3 Fran's name out of it is say, tell us Smithers
4 did. Then they'd keep Fran's name out of it.
5 Tell us Smithers knew all about it. Did you
6 want me to do that instead to get her off?
7 Fucking a roadie. I didn't either. And I don't
8 do them kind of things. It's as simple as that.
9 That's just the fucking way it goes. They drug
10 her. I'm telling you. You just don't want to
11 accept the fact. They want to get me mad and
12 they want to get me angry to do something stupid.
13 Cause they know I'm short fused. I'm holding
14 my cool better than fucking anybody. Their game,
15 the whole fucking game plan is to piss me off.
16 Hoping I do something. They got it fenced in
17 now. They got trip wires all over the fucking
18 place. And they got guards around them vehicles.
19 All the fucking time just hoping that someone will
20 come back there. And you know what? If I
21 want to go back there and bring them guards
22 home with me I can fucking do it. And that ain't
23 bull shit. Cause I ain't afraid to go out there
24 and do it. And you told me you'd be by my side
25 all the time. And when I wanted to go up there
26 the first time I knew when I asked you, you
27 didn't have the nerve to do it.

28
29 TS: Nope.

30
31 SR: That's all you had to say. Don't pretend to me Tom.
32 If you don't have the fucking nerve you don't
33 have it. There's nobody else that has it either.

1 So don't feel bad. You have to be totally fucking
2 crazy.

3
4 TS: That's it.

5
6 SR: And your not

7
8 TS: Well I'm not going to go back. I'll meet you
9 again. I'll meet you again. If you want to talk
10 again. Let me think about what's going on here.
11 And I'll meet with you again.

12
13 SR: You have to separate the bull shit.

14
15 TS: Yup all right.

16
17 SR: Call me don't fucking ignore me.

18
19 TS: I'll call you and I'll meet you here. And I'll meet
20 you at the same spot. I'm not going to meet you
21 at that fucking house again.

22
23 SR: I don't mind.

24
25 TS: But I think you know.

26
27 SR: That house is the safest fucking thing. That house
28 has got the best alarm system you ever seen.

29
30 TS: Well.

31
32 SR: Impenetrable.

33

1 TS: And you don't do no good to threaten me.

2

3 SR: I didn't threaten.

4

5 TS: Or kill my fucking dogs. I don't know who killed
6 my fucking dogs.

7

8 SR: I didn't kill your fucking dog. And if I did I
9 had the nerve. I have never done nothing to
10 hurt you. That's why I didn't deserve the treat-
11 ment I got from you. I told you the only thing
12 I want to do is because you stabbed me in
13 the back is break your face a little.

14

15 TS: Well it might come to that some day.

16

17 SR: That's all you got to do you know. What's the big
18 fucking deal? You made a mistake and you
19 got to pay for it. I make mistakes and I pay
20 for them.

21

22 TS: Okay.

23

24 SR: You thought you was on the wrong fucking side.
25 You thought I was drowning for sure and you
26 jumped off the ship. That's as far as I can see
27 it went. And that's what...

28

29 TS: Well you think what you think. You do whatever
30 you want to do.

31

32 SR: You didn't give me anything else to think.

33

1 TS: Well I, I you said when you called that you
2 wanted to talk to me. That there was somethings
3 that I needed to know.
4

5 SR: Right.
6

7 TS: We met, we talked, now we know what we're
8 talking about.
9

10 SR: The things that you needed to know.
11

12 TS: Now if you want to meet with me again fine.
13 We will meet again.
14

15 SR: The things that you needed to know is we have to
16 fucking do something about that fucking alibi you
17 used with Whats his name because their already
18 checking into him.
19

20 TS: All right.
21

22 SR: With Flugel.
23

24 TS: We'll see.
25

26 SR: He alibied you.
27

28 TS: Well that's a fact.
29

30 SR: And because of his brothers bad reputation, it ain't
31 going to work well. Tony's the Police Chief now.
32

33 TS: Yeah.

1 SR: You know it doesn't work. They're out to nail
2 fucking cops. You know and me, you know because
3 I'm crooked. They're out to nail me because I
4 slapped them fuckers in the face and I got away
5 with it. That's what pisses them off about me.
6 Who else would slap them in the fucking face and
7 get away with it?
8

9 TS: Yeah.

10

11 SR: People in their right mind don't do that. They don't
12 walk into the police barracks and tell them they're
13 a bunch of fucking ass holes.
14

15 TS: You must have been fucking crazy to go up there and
16 light.
17

18 SR: Tom when we talked about the fucking deal.

19

20 TS: Yup it's crazy.

21

22 SR: You said I should just go up there and take it.
23 That's what you fucking told me.
24

24

25 TS: Well.

26

27 SR: Because you didn't believe I was fucking crazy
28 enough to do it. That's why you said it.
29

29

30 TS: Oh well.

31

32 SR: And that's exactly what happened. You can't get
33 out of it. You, you run your whole life looking

1 over your shoulder thinking someones following
2 you. And you can get one thing out of your head.
3 It's not me because when I want to do some-
4 thing to you I'll let you know.
5

6 TS: All right.
7

8 SR: That's, that's, that's as far as it fucking goes. And
9 I told you all that I want to fucking do. I could
10 not understand. I just can't understand why
11 you keep lying to me. I never lied to you, you
12 know. Never. Why would you tell fucking Doug
13 that? He should leave me alone. You know Doug
14 still runs around with Hawk.
15

16 TS: Yeah, well Steve that's the trouble see Steve I
17 mean listen Doug is a friend of mine. I, I
18 raised Doug since he was so high, right.
19

20 SR: Um huh.
21

22 TS: Okay.
23

24 SR: Yeah.
25

26 TS: I'm going to look out for Doug. I really am Steve.
27

28 SR: Yeah, but see it's not, it's not what I call looking
29 out for Doug. You know you can be anything or
30 cure any problem if you stick together. It's as
31 simple as that. I don't care what it is.
32

33 TS: Well maybe I thought I was going to save my

1 fucking ass, but I don't, I don't see that now.
2 I don't know what the hell's going to happen.

3
4 SR: But, but you know, you know what you did
5 with Doug is you got another enemy running
6 around.

7
8 TS: Steve I'm going to go through life having enemies.

9
10 SR: No you're not.

11
12 TS: Yeah.

13
14 SR: Not if you stop fucking them. You know. You know
15 you've got it, you got a natural talent for fucking
16 people in the garage business. It was great. It
17 was fun. You know. You could do it and make
18 money. But you can't run your life like that.

19
20 TS: Well that's the way the business is.

21
22 SR: That's right. But you can't run your life as a
23 business like that.

24
25 TS: Yeah.

26
27 SR: It's not. I don't fuck nobody. No friend. I have
28 friends that I'll kill for and I have friends that
29 will kill for me. And I that's as simple as it
30 goes. And not because it's right or wrong or illegal
31 someone harms me or my family there'll be hell to
32 pay. And what they're trying to do is put me
33 away. And they fucking failed. There's no way